

BACKGROUND AND KEY QUESTIONS

As part of the 2005 Energy Report process, the Energy Commission will identify energy-related impacts of growth-induced trends and issues in the California and Baja California, Mexico border area and recommend strategies to achieve balanced solutions to address environmental problems and maintain stable economic growth.

Over the next nine months, staff will identify energy-related, bi-national issues and gather information on trends: demographic, economic growth, energy supply and demand and water availability and quality. Staff will also obtain assessment studies and/or conduct analysis to evaluate the energy, environmental and economic impacts of the growth-induced trends. Furthermore, staff will characterize the existing governmental and institutional context that influences cross border decision making. Finally, staff will conduct a public outreach process on both sides of the border to engage government agencies, utilities, private power developers, industry and business owners, public interest groups and citizens in seeking their views and options to address issues identified by staff. The Border Energy Workshop on December 14th is a crucial part of this public outreach process.

The results will be included as a section of the 2005 California Energy Report.

Key questions relating to energy issues in the California – Mexico border area:

1. What mutually agreeable steps can be taken to reduce energy demand and increase energy production to meet the needs of California and Baja California?
2. What mechanisms can California and Mexico explore to coordinate the planning and development of sustainable energy use and infrastructure to meet future growth in the border area?
3. How can local, state and national permitting processes be coordinated in terms of timing, varying environmental standards and mitigation goals?
4. How can California engage the U.S. and Mexican governments, international organizations, local governments, community groups and private enterprise to help resolve energy-related environmental problems such as air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions, traffic congestion, water supply and environmental justice in the border region?